

**From:** baritone  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/10/01 10:05am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Verdict

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to take a moment of your time to voice my extreme displeasure over the proposed settlement for the Microsoft antitrust case. The proposed solution can only help to expand Microsoft's stranglehold on the market while not solving the original concern over the monopolistic development practices. Let me explain.

First, Microsoft donating software to poor schools is indeed generous, however this is a marketing technique used by Apple for many years. Apple would sell software to schools and educators at a highly reduced cost with the intent to increase market share. The idea employed exposes children to the software in hopes that they will purchase it for home. That is the point where this strategy increases both market share and profitability.

Second, while this is very generous of Microsoft it does not provide any provisions for hindering the practice of elimination of competition originally addressed in the suit. Nowhere does it state that Microsoft must make their operating system more open to other software producers or separate the operating system manufacture from the applications manufacture.

One must ask themselves whether this "settlement" punishes or benefits Microsoft. No changes or judgements are passed that change the nature of the original issue. Concurrently Microsoft will gain access to a market, namely the education market, that they have never been able to fully access. This would seem to advance the stranglehold and monopolistic tendencies while risking other companies namely Apple computing.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Roughgarden